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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8070
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV YO
SUBJ: TIMETABLE OF ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

1. SUMMARY: DRAGOSLAV MARKOVIC AND EDVARD KARDELJ RELEASED INFORMATION ON ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO SEPARATE GROUPS DEC, 20, CONSTITUTION WILL BE ADOPTED BY FEDERAL ASSEMBLY IN FEBRUARY AND ELECTIONS FOR NEW ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD IN APRIL OR MAY. SOME CHANGES IN NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM ALSO REVEALED. FINAL APPROVAL FOR ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION BEFORE CONVENING OF 10TH LCY CONGRESS IN MAY OBVIOUSLY GIVEN BY TITO IN MEETING DEC. 13. END SUMMARY

2. SERBIAN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DRAGOSLAV MARKOVIC REVEALED IN SESSION OF PRESIDIUM OF SERBIAN ASSEMBLY DECM 20 THAT FEDERAL ASSEMBLY WILL ADOPT NEW CONSTITUTION BY END OF FEBRUARY AFTER LIMITED FURTHER DELIBERATION BY CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION AND OTHER BODIES. ELECTIONS FOR NEW FEDERAL AND REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES WILL BE HELD IN APRIL. (KARDELJ REPORTEDLY GAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TIMETABLE, RESULTING IN ELECTIONS IN MAY.) MARKOVIC STATED DRAFT TEXT OF CONSTITUTION RECEIVED "FULL" SUPPORT IN MEETING ATTENDED BY BROAD POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND CHARIED BY TITO, UNQUESTIONABLY REFERRING TO MEETING AT BRIONI ON DEC. 13 WHOSE
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ONLY REPORTED AGENDA ITEM WAS DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTION DRAFT.

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POTROURRI OF ORGANIZATIONS WERE REPRESENTED AT THAT MEETING: LCY PRESIDIUM, EXECUTIVES BUREAU AND ARMY PARTY ORGANIZATION, REPS OF FEDERAL, REQUBLICAN AND PROVICNCIAL ASSEMBLIES, FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SAWPY, LABOR UNIONS, VETERANS, YOUTH AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION.

3. ON SAME DAY OF MARKOVIC REVELATIONS, KARDELJ HOSTED RECEPTION FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AS WHICH HE TOOK QUESTIONS ONLY ON CONSTITUTION. HE VOLUNTERRED SOME DETAILS ON PLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH WILL EMERGE WITH NEW LAW. NEWSMEN PRESENT RECOUNTED KARDELJ'S PRESENT ATION FOR EMBASSY.

4. PRESENT DECENTRALIZED POLITICAL SYSTEM WITH SEPARATE FEDERAL, REPUBLICAN AND LOCAL (OPSTINA) OGVERNMENTS WILL BE RETAINED. BICAMERAL FEDERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE FEDERAL CHAMBER WITH 30 REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH REPUBLIC AND 20 FROM EACH PROVINCE. CHAMBER OF REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES WILL HAVE 12 FROM EACH REPUBLIC AND

8 FROM EACH PRVINCE FOR TOTAL OF 88, UP FROM PREVIOUSLY ENVISAGED TOTAL OF 58, ACCORDING TO MARKOVIC. IDEA OF HAVING THIRD CHAMBER, AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITHIN ASSEMBLY, HAS BEEN DROPPED. FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PRESIDENCY WILL BE RETAINED, BUT LATTER WILL HAVE ONLY 9 MEMBER. PRESIDENTS OF BOTH EXECUTIVE BODIES WILL HAVE ON-YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE (AFTER TITO LEAVES SCENE). KARDELJ EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENCY WILL HAVE CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES AND OVERALL POLICY DIRECTION RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT FEC WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DAILY TASKS.

5. KARDELJ SAID REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLIES WILL HAVE THREE CHAMBERS, OF WHICH ONE WILL BE SOCIAL-POLITICAL COUNCIL WITH POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL CONTROL FUNCTION. HE SAID THIS COUNCIL WILL INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OF PARTY AND VETERANS. ALSO IMPORTANT FEATURE OF NEW SYSTEM WILL BE BASIC ORGANIZATIONS OF ASSOCIATED LABOR, WHICH DESIGNED TO BE PRIME MOVING BODIES AT LOCAL LEVEL FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES AND INITIATING OTHER POLITICAL ACTIONS.

6. COMMENT: THESE WERE UNUSUAL FORUMS FOR ANNOUNCEMENT ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND DISCUSSION ITS FEATURES. KARDELJ SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY OF PARTY, OF COURSE, AND MARKOVIC HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE SAVVY AND WELL-CONNECTED SERBIAN POLITICAN. IN ANY EVENT, TITO RENDERED LONG-AWAITED DECISION ON DRAFT WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AD NAUSEUM SINCE JUNE AT EVERY POLITICAL LEVEL, ADDIDING HIS IMPRIMATUR PROBABLY AFTER PRESIDING OVER LAST MINUTE CHANGES AT BRIONI MEETING. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND HOLDING OF ELECTIONS CHEDULED TO ALLOW COMPLETION OF PROCESS BEFORE 10TH PARTY CONGRESS CONVENES IN MAY, AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, AT WHICH CONSTITUTION AND NEW PLITICAL SYSTEM WILL

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BE HERALDED AS PARTY'S LATEST POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS.
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